

SENATE FILE NO. SF0121

Career and technical training grants.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hastert, Craft, Meier and Von Flatern and Representative(s) Byrd, Esquibel, K., Freeman and Goggles

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to labor and employment; establishing a
2 career and technical training scholarship program in the
3 department of workforce services; providing definitions;
4 providing for reimbursement of grants as specified;
5 requiring rulemaking; providing appropriations; and
6 providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 27-15-101 through 27-15-105 are
11 created to read:

12

13

CHAPTER 15

14

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

15

16

ARTICLE 1

1 CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING GRANTS

2

3 **27-15-101. Definitions.**

4

5 (a) As used in this article:

6

7 (i) "Approved career and technical training
8 provider" means a Wyoming community college providing
9 career and technical training in Wyoming which is licensed
10 or registered under W.S. 21-2-401 through 21-2-407;

11

12 (ii) "Career and technical training" means
13 training through an approved training career and technical
14 training provider that develops or enhances the skills of
15 an individual for specific careers that are based on the
16 workforce needs of the state as identified by the
17 department;

18

19 (iii) "Career readiness score" means qualifying
20 scores on a multilevel career readiness preinstructional
21 assessment tool, preapproved by the department, to qualify
22 an individual's level of proficiency in the following
23 measurable work-ready skills:

24

1 (A) Reading for information;

2

3 (B) Applied mathematics;

4

5 (C) Locating information;

6

7 (D) Any additional skills necessary to meet
8 business and industry skill demand.

9

10 (iv) "Department" means the department of
11 workforce services.

12

13 **27-15-102. Career and technical training grants**
14 **established.**

15

16 (a) The department shall, by rule and regulation,
17 establish and administer a program to provide training
18 grants for the training of persons participating in a
19 career and technical training program.

20

21 (b) The purpose of the career and technical training
22 grant program is to provide career and technical training
23 grants to develop or enhance the skills of Wyoming's

1 workforce based on current, projected or emerging labor
2 shortages in the Wyoming economy.

3

4 (c) The department is authorized to promulgate rules
5 and regulations for the purpose of implementing this
6 article. All rules and regulations shall be promulgated in
7 consultation with training providers and employers. No
8 grants shall be awarded under this article until adoption
9 of final rules pursuant to this subsection.

10

11 (d) The department may receive donations from
12 foundations or other private sources. Any donation funds
13 shall be deposited into a separate account and are
14 continuously appropriated to the department, which may
15 distribute those funds in accordance with the provisions of
16 this article.

17

18 (e) The following shall not be reimbursed under this
19 article:

20

21 (i) Services eligible to be paid for by another
22 public or private program;

23

1 (ii) Services historically paid for by another
2 program or from another source;

3

4 (iii) Continuing education training in an
5 applicant's current trade.

6

7 **27-15-103. Career and technical training grants;**
8 **eligibility.**

9

10 (a) Under the career and technical training grant
11 program, subject to availability of funds as determined by
12 the legislature, the state shall provide a grant pursuant
13 to this article to any trainee who has been accepted by and
14 enrolls in an approved training program, and who meets the
15 following qualifications:

16

17 (i) The trainee has demonstrated twelve (12)
18 months residence in Wyoming as defined in W.S.
19 22-1-102(a)(xxx);

20

21 (ii) The trainee has:

22

23 (A) Graduated from high school or has
24 obtained a general equivalency diploma in accordance with

1 rules adopted by the department of education pursuant to
2 W.S. 21-16-1308(b)(iv); and

3

4 (B) Has earned the baseline career
5 readiness score as preapproved by the department under this
6 article for the type of training to be undertaken.
7 However, the department may provide by rule and regulation
8 for an application and approval process using alternative
9 criteria that are the functional equivalent of the career
10 readiness score.

11

12 (b) No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under
13 this article for more than the equivalent of two (2) years.
14 No trainee shall be eligible for a grant under this article
15 for any period commencing after four (4) calendar years
16 following the trainee's initial eligibility. For purposes
17 of this subsection, a trainee's initial eligibility shall
18 be deemed to commence on the program start date identified
19 on the application or the date the program actually begins,
20 whichever is earlier. The department shall by rule and
21 regulation establish exceptions to this subsection for
22 military service, religious service and other good cause
23 shown.

24

1 (c) A trainee is not eligible for a grant under this
2 article if he:

3

4 (i) Is not a United States citizen or a
5 permanent resident alien who meets the definition of an
6 eligible noncitizen under federal Title IV requirements or
7 requirements of a subsequent similar federal enactment;

8

9 (ii) Has not complied with United States
10 selective service system requirements for registration, if
11 the requirements are applicable to the trainee;

12

13 (iii) Is in default on a federal Title IV
14 education loan. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a
15 trainee who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this
16 article and has fully repaid a defaulted loan or is no
17 longer in default, from receiving a grant after the default
18 is cured;

19

20 (iv) Owes a refund under a federal Title IV
21 trainee financial aid program or a subsequently enacted
22 similar federal student financial aid program, or a student
23 financial aid program administered through the state.
24 Nothing in this paragraph prohibits a trainee who is

1 otherwise eligible for a grant under this article and has
2 fully paid the refund owed, from receiving a grant after
3 paying the refund owed;

4

5 (v) Is incarcerated;

6

7 (vi) Is not eligible to hold a license or is
8 otherwise disqualified to be employed in the occupation for
9 which the training is sought;

10

11 (vii) Has been the recipient of more than two
12 (2) semesters of any Hathaway scholarship under W.S.
13 21-16-1301 through 21-16-1310 during the five (5) year
14 period before the date of application; or

15

16 (viii) Does not otherwise qualify under this
17 article for a grant.

18

19 (d) The department shall pay the cost of an eligible
20 applicant's initial career readiness tests. Any retesting
21 to improve an applicant's score shall be at the applicant's
22 expense.

23

1 **27-15-104. Career and technical training grants;**
2 **agreement; remedies upon breach; technical assistance.**

3

4 (a) Grant payments shall be made directly to an
5 approved career and technical training provider. Grantees
6 shall enter into a contract with the department providing
7 that the trainee shall work in Wyoming in the trade for
8 which the trainee receives training for the period provided
9 in the department's rules. Commitment duration shall be
10 based on the value of the training opportunity, shall be
11 commensurate with the magnitude of the grant and shall not
12 be less than the length of the grantee's training program
13 or two (2) years, whichever is less. For purposes of this
14 subsection, "work in Wyoming" means that the grantee is
15 employed for at least eighty percent (80%) of the grantee's
16 paid work hours in the trade for which the grant was
17 awarded.

18

19 (b) If a trainee breaches the agreement required by
20 subsection (a) of this section, the trainee shall repay
21 that portion of all funds for the corresponding contract
22 period provided on behalf of the trainee under the
23 agreement, together with costs of collection and attorney
24 fees. The department shall by rule and regulation

1 establish exceptions to this subsection for military
2 service, religious service and other good cause shown.

3

4 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance
5 to prospective trainees in the application and reporting
6 requirements established by department rules.

7

8 **27-15-105. Legislative report.**

9

10 The department shall report by June 1, 2014 to the joint
11 education interim committee, the joint labor, health and
12 social services interim committee and the joint
13 appropriations interim committee on the career and
14 technical training grant program, including industry and
15 trainee participation, numbers of persons completing
16 training, numbers of former trainees working in Wyoming,
17 total grant expenditures, per trainee grant expenditures
18 and administrative expenditures.

19

20 **Section 2.**

21

22 (a) There is appropriated five hundred thousand
23 dollars (\$500,000.00) from the general fund to the
24 department of workforce services. This appropriation shall

1 be for the period beginning with the effective date of this
2 act and ending June 30, 2014. This appropriation shall
3 only be expended for the purpose of the career and
4 technical training grants established under W.S. 27-15-102
5 created by this act. Grants shall not exceed one thousand
6 six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00) per year per eligible
7 grantee. Upon the award of a career and technical training
8 grant, the department shall set aside and encumber the full
9 amount and cost of any grant awarded for the entire period
10 of the grant. The department shall establish by rule and
11 regulation when an awarded grant shall terminate. Upon
12 termination of a grant, any unexpended portion of the grant
13 shall be available to fund additional grants as provided
14 under W.S. 27-15-102 created by this act. Notwithstanding
15 any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be
16 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
17 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
18 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
19 2014. Any obligated funds shall revert after June 30, 2014
20 upon the termination of the grant which encumbered those
21 funds.

22

23 (b) There is appropriated fifty thousand dollars
24 (\$50,000.00) from the general fund to the department of

1 workforce services. This appropriation shall be for the
2 period beginning with the effective date of this act and
3 ending June 30, 2014. This appropriation shall only be
4 expended for the purpose of administering the career and
5 technical assistance grant program established by this act,
6 including initial career readiness testing and promotional
7 and technical assistance activities for the program.
8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
9 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any
10 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
11 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
12 by law on June 30, 2014.

13

14 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
15 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
16 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
17 Constitution.

18

19

(END)